Voluntary organisations for promoting peace and communal harmony

1725. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute voluntary organisations consisting of different community leaders to promote peace and harmony among different communities in cities and towns where communal tension is a chronic affair; and

(b) whether Government propose to increase the amount allotted for this purpose from Rs. 9 lakhs allotted in the year 1989-90?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government of India do not constitute voluntary organisations. These are formed by the members of the public and this Ministry grants financial assistance to them for organising activities in the cause of national integration, peace and harmony among different communities.

(b) The budget provision for the current financial year has already been stepped up to Rs. 20 lakhs.

Unlicensed and Smuggled Arms and Ammunition

1726. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a drive to seize unlicensed/illegally smuggled arms and ammunition throughout the country;

(b) whether huge arms and ammunition smuggled from Sri Lanka were recently recovered in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what is the action taken after the seizure of the huge illegally smuggled arms/ammunition in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Possession of unlicensed/illegally smuggled arms and ammunition is an offence under the Arms Act, 1959. Necessary powers under the said Act to check and unearth such arms and ammunition and to proceed against the offenders are vested with the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Instructions already exist enjoining upon the State Governments/UT Administrations to conduct periodic raids and surprise checks to curb this menace.

(b) and (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Barbed wire fencing along Indo-Bangladesh border

1727. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to erect barbed wire fencing along the Indo-Bangladesh Border;

(b) whether Government also propose to detect infiltrators and delete their names from the voters list on war footing;

(c) whether Government also propose to issue Identity Cards to all citizens in border States;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to implement these plans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir, but in selected stretches.

(b) The work of detecting foreigners is a continuing activity. Those detected to be foreigners have not been included in the electoral rolls.